

MILES OF STAMPS.

Some Idea of the Millions That Were Issued Last Year.

Uncle Sam printed just a few postage stamps during the year 1898. The number of 2 cent stamps issued during the year was about 2,500,000,000. Such a number obviously is beyond the grasp of the human mind, but perhaps the matter may be made more clear by putting it otherwise.

An ordinary 2 cent stamp is exactly one inch long. From this fact by a little calculation it is easy to discover that the number of stamps of this denomination issued in 1898 placed end to end would extend a distance considerably exceeding 89,000 miles. In other words, they would make a continuous strip of stamps, each one adorned with the head of the Father of His Country, stretching in a belt more than once and a half around the equator.

Of course, though the 2 cent stamps are those principally used, there are others. Enough 1 cent stamps have been issued during the year 1898 to stretch from New York City, by way of Europe and Asia, to Bombay by similar arrangement in one strip. All other stamps, as to production and sales, are of minor importance, comparatively speaking, but it is interesting to know that almost exactly one mile of 81 stamps was manufactured for the demand of 1898. Of 85 stamps the production was equivalent to a little more than half a furlong, or about one-fifth of a mile.

Now, if all the postage stamps printed by the United States government in 1898 were placed one on top another as neatly as might be without putting them under pressure how high do you suppose the pile of them would be? There is no use guessing; you would never get it nearly right unless you went to work to calculate it for yourself. The 3,500,000,000 stamps of all denominations printed during the current year—the statement, of course, is approximate—would tower to an elevation of 31 miles. This is more than three times the height of the highest mountain in the world—Mount Everest, in the Himalayas. If the same number of stamps was piled up in the form of the ordinary sheets of 100 each, it follows that the stack would be over a fifth of a mile high.

During the year 1898 the number of special delivery stamps sold was about 5,500,000. It is only reasonable to suppose that the average journey of the special delivery messenger is half a mile. Indeed that is an absurd underestimate, but let it go at that. On this assumption the total distance traveled for special delivery in 1898 was about 2,825,000 miles. That is a very considerable space to traverse, as may be realized when it is considered that a messenger boy, in order to accomplish that total distance, would have to go about 1,100 times around the world, or five times to the moon and back.

It appears from figures furnished by the postoffice department that the average person in Massachusetts, including men, women and children, spends \$2.30 on postage per annum. New York comes second with an expenditure of \$2.27. The District of Columbia third, with \$1.98, and Connecticut is fifth, with \$1.80. The states ranking lowest in this regard are South Carolina, with 33 cents per capita, Mississippi, with 31 cents per capita, with 35 cents; Arkansas, with 27 cents, and North Carolina, with 41 cents.—Washington Star.

AMERICA'S LAST CAMEL.

He Went to Feed the Indians After a Long and Honorable Career.

The last wild camel in America was killed and eaten by the Indians in Yuma a few days ago. The venerable beast was one of the herd of camels brought from Asia Minor many years ago to carry ore from the Comstock mines. So ends the greatest attempt at acclimating foreign animals ever made in the United States. It seems sad that the noble beast, the last of his tribe, should have such an ignominious end. And yet some sympathy must be given the poor Indians for they must have been awful hungry to be able to masticate the tough, 75-year-old camel. Besides, the poor camel would most likely have died of slow starvation in a short time, for when last seen alive by white men it was very feeble.

Just who the man was who thought of bringing camels to this country seems to be a matter of some doubt. Several men are credited with having done so, but even the old timers themselves seem to be a little tangled up on this bit of western history. P. T. Barton of Prescott, A. T., who was in the Comstock at the time, said he was positive that the late Adolph Sutro was largely instrumental in bringing the camels here. This, however, has been strenuously denied. Dozens of similar stories are told about other prominent Californians, but little credence can be given to any of them.

But the fact remains that the camels were brought here. On all the points connected with this part of the story the old timers agree. It was in the old days, when the Comstock was in its glory, the days before the railroad, when Virginia City was almost as important a town as San Francisco. It so happened that a certain group of mines about 25 or 30 miles out of Virginia City was panning out piles of rich ore. It was impossible to put up a mill close to the mines on account of lack of water.

Mules were put to the work, and during the winter months did fairly well, although to feed and care for them was a terrorizing expense. It must be understood that as dry, rocky and barren a desert as there is on the face of the earth lay between Virginia City and the mines. To use a vehicle of any kind was out of the question, and so the ore was carried in bags slung over the backs of the animals.

From the first it was apparent that the mule plan was not a success. In the summer it took about two mules to carry water for the one that carried ore. And all the while the animals kept dying. The intense heat and dry, sandy air were too much for them, and they fell by the wayside so fast that a new band was required almost weekly. But the ore had to be carried to the mill, for there was "millions in it."

At this juncture some genius suggested that the miners' buy camels for the work. So the camels were bought at great expense. Some of them were obtained from the veteran showman, P. T. Barnum, and about 200 came direct from Asia Minor under the care of an agent dispatched from Virginia City.

From the first the camels did all that was expected of them. Each morning they would eat a meager breakfast of any old weed that happened in their way, drink a few gallons of water, and were ready for business. Two bags of ore, each containing between 200 and 300 pounds, were strapped to the back over the hump of the camel.

When the train was ready, all started off at once, striking a good swinging gait that was kept up until the mill was reached. The drivers had nothing to do but follow the train; no stopping for water, no urging, no beatings. The faithful beasts did their work wilingly.—Denver Republican.

Who will Haul Down the Flag?

Special to the Shen. Herald.

For a while Greeks had a legend of a giant named Antaeus, who could not be conquered while his body touched the earth. Hercules fought him and defeated him by holding him aloft till he had grown weak and then beheaded him before his strength returned. Every great political party has obtained its first headway from a direct relation with the people and the same law governs the condition and success of every great principle. James Madison said in the Federalist No. XLIX: "The people are the only legitimate fountain of power."

1. Give the notice to the parties in interest of the time and place of executing this order. 2. Convene before him by publication once a week for four successive weeks, in some newspaper published in Woodstock, all the creditors of the estates of Israel Allen, dec'd and Amanda Allen, dec'd.

3. Report the value and character of the personal property of each of said estates, which came into the hands of the Administrator, and the times and amount of the receipt of the same. 4. Ascertain and report the amounts, value and kind of personal property of each of said estates as may not yet have passed into the hands of, or under the control of the Administrator; and in acting under both clauses (3) and (4) of this decree, the Commissioner shall state exactly how much of the said estate is accrued interest and the time at which it accrued, and what part of it consisted of crops or proceeds from the land.

5. In order to properly determine the matters involved in this cause the Commissioner will settle the accounts of Amanda Allen, late personal representative of Israel Allen, dec'd, and the Commissioner will ascertain and report how much of the personal estate of Israel Allen was agreed by A. L. Snyder and by Lee Long and Amanda Allen, to be paid to Joseph V. Snyder, by the contract of July 20th last, and how much of the same has been paid.

6. Leave to any party in interest to produce before the Commissioner evidence touching any of the issues made by the Bill and Answer in this cause. 7. Leave to any party in interest to produce before the Commissioner evidence touching any of the issues made by the Bill and Answer in this cause.

8. In order to properly determine the matters involved in this cause the Commissioner will settle the accounts of Amanda Allen, late personal representative of Israel Allen, dec'd, and the Commissioner will ascertain and report how much of the personal estate of Israel Allen was agreed by A. L. Snyder and by Lee Long and Amanda Allen, to be paid to Joseph V. Snyder, by the contract of July 20th last, and how much of the same has been paid.

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10. He shall report any other matter pertinent to this case, which any party interested may desire him to report, requested to be taken by the decree of the Shenandoah Circuit Court rendered on the 20th day of January 1899 to be used in evidence in a suit in chancery depending in said court between Joseph V. Snyder, admr., decs., complainant, and Israel Allen, admr., decs., defendants, and if from any cause the taking of said accounts shall not be commenced, or having been commenced should not be completed on that day, the fixing of the same will be adjourned from day to day, or from place to place, until the same are taken and completed.

Given under my hand as Commissioner in chancery, this 1st day of February, 1899, at Woodstock, Va.

P. W. MAGRUDER, Comr. in Chancery. Barton & Boyl p. q. Walton & Walton p. d.

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